

TILSLEY
Appl. No. 09/622,810
April 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected in the outstanding Final Rejection. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice and newly written claims 9-17 offered for consideration. Accordingly claims 9-17 are the only claims remaining in the application.

The entry of the previously submitted amendments to the title and to the specification are appreciated. The Examiner's approval of the previously submitted drawings is also appreciated. The Examiner's consideration of the prior art cited in applicant's previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated. However, it is apparent that the Examiner did not appreciate that Japan Patent 10-336632 (which the Examiner crossed through) had as its application serial number, 09-147717 which is one of the five Japanese applications from which the Kuwano et al published application cited in the IDS claimed priority (Note that the "Foreign Application Priority Data" recites "Jun. 5, 1997 (JP)147717/1997"). Accordingly, the Examiner's consideration of the Kuwano et al reference presumably includes the information contained in JP 10-336632.

However, as an aid to the Examiner, applicant has obtained translations of several of the Japanese patents cited in the information disclosure statement and will provide those and other pertinent references in due course.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 & 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 in the outstanding official action. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7 & 8 have been canceled without prejudice in favor of newly

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written claims 9-17, thereby obviating the rejection under 35 USC §103. The newly written claims have be written in order to clearly define over the cited prior art.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 9-17 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.


Stanley C. Spooner, Reg. No. 27,393

4/30/04
Date